

AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: MAY 2, 2007

DEPARTMENT: CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

**DIRECTOR: ELIZABETH FRETWELL,
DEPUTY CITY MANAGER**

☐ Consent ☒ Discussion

SUBJECT:

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Discussion and possible action concerning the status of 2007 legislative issues - All Wards

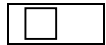
Fiscal Impact



No Impact



Augmentation Required



Budget Funds Available

Amount:

Funding Source:

Dept./Division:

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:

Staff will report on pending legislation of the 2007 Nevada State Legislature

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City council accept the report and direct staff, if necessary

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

None

Motion made by GARY REESE to Approve to Accept the report

Passed For: 7; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 0

BRENDA J. WILLIAMS, LARRY BROWN, LOIS TARKANIAN, STEVE WOLFSON,
OSCAR B. GOODMAN, GARY REESE, STEVEN D. ROSS; (Against-None); (Abstain-None);
(Did Not Vote-None); (Excused-None)

Minutes:

CHRIS KNIGHT, Director of Administrative Services, reported on the status of various Assembly and Senate Bills before the Legislature. SB 66 increases tort liability from 50,000 to 100,000 dollars and it will probably pass. SB 90 has not moved much. SB 123 deals with public records and staff continues to have concern because of the changes to the definition of public records. SB 139 is anticipated to move to the floor. SB 198 has not been assigned to committee.

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SB 514 (Charter Bill) has moved to the Senate side and language regarding judges has been amended to include appointments every two years. SB 234 is of concern in the Assembly because of prevailing wages issues. SB 437 encourages green buildings; however, silver certification for single-family residences would allow a 50 percent property tax reduction for ten years, which would greatly threaten the City's revenue stream. AB 288 passed and it appropriates funds for Floyd Lamb State Park.

Regarding SB 234, COUNCILMAN ROSS directed CITY MANAGER SELBY to create a forum to allow communication with all parties involved, because there is currently a great deal of misunderstandings. MAYOR GOODMAN noted that he does not want any projects at Union Park being picketed. MR. KNIGHT agreed that there is a lot of misunderstandings, adding that there is specific language that prevailing wages will apply to projects enabled by SB 234.

MR. KNIGHT continued with his update. SB 16 and AB 102 deal with eminent domain. AB 102 has an agreement that reflects the Council's position on eminent domain; however, SB 16 has an amendment that staff is opposing, because it allows persons who own property to choose the date for value determination, which could greatly escalate the prices. MAYOR GOODMAN noted the Council's opposition to private-to-private use of eminent domain.

Lastly, MR. KNIGHT reported that AB 14 encompasses all introduced bills related to graffiti and increases the penalties and criminalizes for any kind of implementation on one's person. COUNCILMAN REESE noted that the problem with graffiti legislation is the inability to enforce it. MAYOR GOODMAN directed CITY MANAGER SELBY to have the Sheriff's office address the Council on the problem of apprehending taggers, opining that tagging needs to be made a felony. BRIAN O'CALLAHAN, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (Metro), interjected that many of the taggers are adults. It is difficult to catch taggers in the act, but graffiti can be matched to gangs. He noted that the new bill will make it a felony for \$5,000 in damage, as well as a mandatory ten days in jail for adults.

MAYOR GOODMAN asked MR. O'CALLAHAN what advice he would give to citizens that observe graffiti being done. MR. O'CALLAHAN advised that they should call 3-1-1 immediately, so that responders can take photographs as evidence for Metro to try and find a match. MAYOR GOODMAN directed DEPUTY CITY MANAGER FRETWELL to have the Metro graffiti expert make a presentation to the Council, stressing that he wants the City to be the toughest in the world when it comes to graffiti offenders. DEPUTY CITY MANAGER FRETWELL noted that after a six-month effort, an internal criminal justice advisory group was created, and two of its key focus areas are enhancing coordination and responsiveness in terms of graffiti. She indicated that she would like to schedule on an upcoming agenda a full report about graffiti and how it is being addressed.

MAYOR GOODMAN and COUNCILMEMBERS REESE and TARKANIAN all agreed that graffiti keeps getting worse and that the only way to deter it is to increase punishment.

AL GALLEGOS, Las Vegas citizen, suggested putting offenders' names and pictures in the newspaper to embarrass them and their parents. JERRY NEAL, representing West Las

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Vegas, recommended providing a place for taggers to do graffiti. DAVID ESCADA, Valley High School student, pointed out that it takes only about ten minutes to tag and taggers want to be noticed. They do graffiti as a way of marking their territory. He suggested contacting the school police, because they know the students and probably know who is tagging. TOM McGOWAN, Las Vegas resident, suggested that the key is to outperform taggers.

MAYOR GOODMAN asked MR. O'CALLAHAN if he felt that progress is being made. MR. O'CALLAHAN replied in the affirmative, adding that new laws and tougher prosecution will help even more.

KIT COOPER, Greater Las Vegas Association of Realtors, indicated that the Association started a program online offering rewards to those that turn in graffiti offenders. Over one million hits have been received and 26 arrests have been made. The program includes community realtors going out and painting over graffiti. He pointed out that law enforcement has always told the Association that graffiti is considered a serious property crime and should, therefore, be reported to 9-1-1. COUNCILMAN WOLFSON said he would be interested in seeing the results of the 26 arrests. He asked CITY MANAGER FRETWELL to work with MR. COOPER.

MAYOR GOODMAN asked how much is being spent on cleaning graffiti, to which STEPHEN HARSIN, Director of Neighborhood Services, replied that over \$100,000 a year is being spent in materials alone.

